



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

February 16, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE CRACKS DOWN ON MIAMI DRUG PARAPHERNALIA SHOPS**

*-- \$2 million worth of illegal drug paraphernalia seized since inception of Operation Up in Smoke --*

WEST PALM BEACH, FL — Bongs, onyx, and metal pipes other drug paraphernalia were among the thousands of items seized today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents serving three Federal search and seizure warrants.

The warrants were served at Wonderland, 2126 Okeechobee Boulevard; Slashbacks Deadhead Shop, 1403 W. Boynton Beach Boulevard, and Grateful J's, 2401 North Federal Highway.

Many of the items seized were decorated with popular cartoons and graphics that are enticing to children.

“These shops sell a dangerous lie to children about drugs and drug use,” said Jesus Torres, special agent-in-charge for the Miami office. “The owners of these shops lure kids by depicting familiar mainstream cartoon characters on paraphernalia. It is obvious they want kids to think its okay to take drugs. This is simply unacceptable.”

Today's warrants are the result of Operation “Up in Smoke,” a continuing ICE Miami initiative launched in Dec. 2003 designed to identify and prosecute businesses that illegally import, manufacture, and distribute drug paraphernalia in South Florida.

Since the inception of this initiative, ICE agent have served 20 Federal search warrants, seizing approximately 80,000 items of illegal drug paraphernalia worth over \$2 million.

The sale of drug paraphernalia is a violation of U.S. Federal laws under Title 21 United States Code 863.

Today's seizures were made with the assistance of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Boynton Beach Police and Boca Raton Police.

Additional search and seizure warrants are anticipated as this operation is a top priority for ICE in South Florida.

# ICE #

*ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.*